INDIANA STATE DATA CENTER
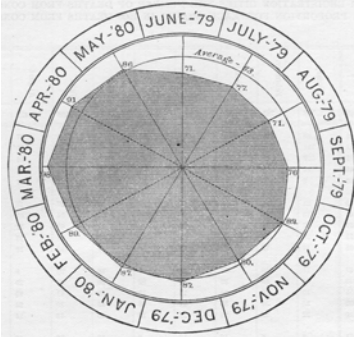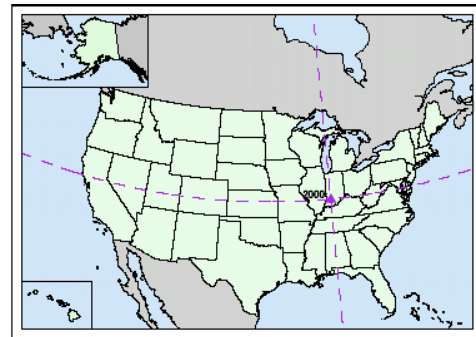
IN the Data Center

Indiana: Still the Median Center of Population for the U.S.

Over a century has passed since Indiana first became the Mean Center of Population of the United States. The *mean center* is determined as the place where an imaginary, flat, weightless and rigid map of the United States would balance perfectly if all residents were of identical weight. Between 1790 and 1880, the Mean Center crept across Maryland into Virginia, present day West Virginia, and Ohio. Finally, by the 1890 Census, the imaginary point moved into Indiana, landing in Decatur County near Greensburg. Between 1890 and 1940 it moved across the state through the counties of Bartholomew (1900), Monroe (1910), Owen (1920), Greene (1930), and Sullivan (1940), before moving on into Clay County, Illinois. In 1880, the Census began computing the *median center* of population, the point at which half of the population is to the north and half is to the south, as well as half to the east and half to the west. The Median Center of Population for the United States landed in Miami County, Ohio, in 1880 and moved to Darke County, Ohio in 1890. Randolph County, Indiana, became the Median Center in 1900 and 1910, before it moved back into Darke County for the 1920, 1930, and 1940 Censuses. Finally, in 1950, Indiana again became home to the Median Center when it landed in Wayne County. Since then, the Center has moved across the state through Henry (1960), Rush (1970), Brown (1980), Monroe (1990), and Daviess (2000) Counties.

Median Center of Population for the United States: 2000.

The Census Bureau? Aren't they on Vacation Until 2010?

You might think that the Census Bureau does its thing every ten years, but you would be sorely mistaken. Today's Census Bureau, in addition to taking a census of the population every 10 years, conducts censuses of economic activity and state and local governments every five years. And every year, the Census Bureau conducts more than 100 surveys. Throughout the decade between censuses, demographic and economic surveys are continually conducted to produce a general view and comprehensive study of U.S. social and economic conditions. The Census Bureau collects information in many other surveys and provides the data to the survey sponsor for release. These sponsors include the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Department of Housing and Urban Development, National Center for Education Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, National Science Foundation and the Social Security Administration.

Web sites of interest:

- STATS Indiana: http://www.stats.indiana.edu

- Indiana Statistics by Topic: http://www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/isl/sdc/in_agency_stats.html

- American Fact Finder: http://factfinder.census.gov

What is the Indiana State Data Center?

In 1978, the State Data Center (SDC) Program began as a cooperative agreement between the states and the U.S. Bureau of the Census. State Data Centers assist the Census Bureau by disseminating Census and other federal statistics. The Indiana State Data Center makes the Census and other federal, state, demographic and economic statistics available through a statewide network of affiliates located in state agencies, universities, libraries, local planning agencies, small business development centers, and non-profit organizations.

The Indiana State Data Center Program is comprised of two coordinating agencies: the Indiana State Library and the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business (Indianapolis and Bloomington).

We provide data and services to all sectors of the community including government agencies, businesses, academia, non-profit organizations, and private citizens. Our products and services are used in marketing, economic development, community planning and analysis, grant writing, business start-ups, and much more.

We maintain a collection of current and historical statistical resources with emphasis on Census and other federal and state agency statistics and answer questions regarding demographic and economic statistics, accessing the most current data publicly available through agency Internet sites. We also provide training workshops on accessing and using Census electronic

Hey! Who Moved My Identity!

According to the Federal Trade Commission, "Identity theft occurs when someone possesses or uses your name, address, Social Security number (SSN), bank or credit card account number, or other identifying information without your knowledge with the intent to commit fraud or other crimes." The thief may get your information using a number of low-tech and high tech methods. One possible method entails rummaging through your trash; this is called "dumpster-diving". Another method might involve completing a change of address form to divert your mail to another location. Once he or she has your information the culprit may run up the credit cards already in your name or get a car loan in your name -- all of which would be reflected on your credit report.

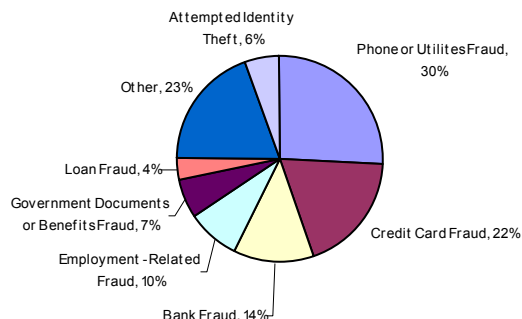How is Indiana affected by identity theft? In 2000, there were less than 300 identity thefts reported. In 2001 Hoosiers reported somewhere between 500 and 2,000 identity thefts. In 2002 Indiana had 2,612 victims of identity theft and ranked 20th in the nation. In 2003 Indiana was ranked 18th in the nation with 3,660 victims. And in 2004 Indiana ranked 17th in the nation with 4,274 victims.

To learn more about identity theft and what you can do to protect yourself, visit the Federal Trade Commission website http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft. Residents of Indiana can order free credit reports (one report every 12 months) at https://www.annualcreditreport.com or by calling 1-877-322-8228.

Daina Bohr, Indiana State Library

Reported Identity Thefts by Type—Indiana—2004

Attempted Identity Theft, 6%
Phone or Utilities Fraud, 30%
Other, 23%
Loan Fraud, 4%
Government Documents or Benefits Fraud, 7%
Employment-Related Fraud, 10%
Bank Fraud, 14%
Credit Card Fraud, 22%

Federal Trade Commission